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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER DATE/CASE ID: 18 MAR 2004 200303979

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, SF, TZ, UG, TS, KE, CG, NI,

DJ

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA: GOLDSTONE INVOLVEMENT IN YUGOSLAVIA WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL SHOULD INSURE SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT.

REF: STATE 198843

1. CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT.

- 2. WE PRESENTED REFTEL TALKING POINTS ON JULY 28 TO DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) RWANDA DESK OFFICER WILLIAM VAN DER VYVER.
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PAGE 03 PRETOR 10774 290800Z 40,000 WAR CRIMINALS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA.

- 4. VAN DER VYVER NOTED THAT A FINAL GOVERNMENT DECISION TO SUPPORT U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT CABINET LEVEL, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE DFA'S LAW ADVISORS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE FACT THAT JUDGE RICHARD GOLDSTONE HAS BEEN ASKED TO HEAD A YUGOSLAV WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL WILL CERTAINLY FACILITATE A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE CONCEPT. FROM THAT POINT ON, FURTHER DIALOGUE ON THE TECHNICALITIES OF ESTABLISHING THE TRIBUNAL SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE BETWEEN OUR U.N. REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK.
- 5. STRESSING HE WAS NOT AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL EXPERT, VAN DER VYVER DOUBTED SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DETAIN RWANDA WAR CRIMES PERPETRATORS ON ITS TERRITORY; SOUTH AFRICA HAS NO

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EXTRADITION TREATY WITH RWANDA.

6. WITH RESPECT TO ANY INVOLVEMENT BY PRESIDENT MANDELA OR OTHER HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN SOLICITING OTHER AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL, WE NOTE THE FACT THAT MANDELA IS NOW VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU). WE BELIEVE THEREFORE MANDELA WOULD BE MOST COMFORTABLE USING HIS PERSUASIVE ABILITY AROUND THE CONTINENT WITHIN THE OAU CONTEXT. VAN DER VYVER DID MENTION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALFRED NZO IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN TUNIS ON OAU BUSINESS, ON AUGUST CONFIDENTIAL

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S-4. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESIDENT
MANDELA, TOO, IS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO A NUMBER OF
AFRICAN COUNTRIES DURING AUGUST. WE RECOMMEND AN
APPEAL TO THE SAG THAT WOULD HAVE THEM PROMOTE AN
OAU POSITION. LYMAN.

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